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Voices of Diversity

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Flyin’ West Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

It is set in the all black town of Nicodemus Kansas in 1898. It portrays the characters of Miss Leah, Sophie, Minnie, and Fannie and their attempt to start a life out west on the land they own.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is when Frank, who is able to pass as a white man, loses all of his inheritance by gambling it away. This leads him to become more abusive to Minnie, and

to the scene were Sophie almost shoots him.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

I believe that the unique factor is Minnie being pregnant. Due to her pregnancy, she is hesitant to leave her abusive husband.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Minnie leave Frankie?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

When Minnie tries to cover up her bruises and lie to the women about how she got them.

When the women plan to murder Frank. Also Minnie’s pregnancy.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is when Sophie tries to shoot Frank because he beat Minnie so badly, but she doesn’t because Minnie is pregnant.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Slavery

Domestic abuse

Feminism

Greed

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Frank wants his inheritance and to be accepted by his white brothers/white men in general. The sisters want to keep the land in their own hands. They also want to live in the all black community free of racism and oppression. Minnie wants to be with Frank because she is pregnant, but she knows he is abusive and is bad for her.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The “Flyin West” title is an image in itself. The women “flew” out west to escape slavery and establish a life for themselves free of abuse and oppression. Frank still abuses Minnie however.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Minnie and Frank are married but he abuses her. The women, all though not related by blood, are all very close and consider each other sisters. The women support each other and believe that they can fight against oppression.